

Historic National Road (HNR)

The Historic National Road is an All-American Road under the Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byways program. It traces the National Road, the first federally funded public road in America, begun in 1806, tracing the history of transportation and the westward movement in America. Maryland is one of 6 states involved in the promotion of the HNR, the longest corridor in the national Scenic Byways system. It starts at Baltimore's Inner Harbor and continues westward through Maryland, following bank-funded sections from Baltimore through Frederick and Hagerstown to meet the beginning point of the National Road in Cumberland. The HNR then goes into Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and terminates in Vandalia, Illinois, where a short link of state-funded road carries the connection to St. Louis.

The HNR was designated an All-American Road on June 13, 2002. The designation involves a Corridor Partnership Plan (CPP) which may be accessed through the Maryland Department of Planning website at www.mdp.state.md.us/nationalroad or a print copy is available for viewing in the Frederick County Department of Planning

There are 96 distinct and diverse roads in the American's Byways list, which contains both National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads. Designation recognizes one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. All-American Roads possess all six qualities and have one-of-a-kind features that do not exist elsewhere.

The benefits of All-American Road designation include promotion of tourism, local community pride, encouragement of preservation of historic sites, landscapes, districts, and roads, and the formation of partnerships among Byway supporters, both public and private, to accomplish the goals identified in the CPP. What the All-American Road designation does not do is create new regulations, local ordinances, historic districts, or mandate participation by any property owner or government. The one federal regulation that applies to designated Scenic Byways and All-American Road is the prohibition of **new** billboards when the route is part of an Interstate, National Highway System, and is a former federal-aid primary road.

A non-profit citizens group, the Maryland National Road Association (MNRA), was formed as a result of recommendations in the Corridor Partnership Plan for the Historic National Road. The purpose of the MNRA is not to advocate or create more regulations. The membership is open to all and is concerned with developing and implementing projects that work toward accomplishing the goals in the CPP.